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ACTION ARA-00

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	EB-08	DINT-05	DODE-00	H-01	NSAE-00	COME-00	L-03
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	OES-09	ACDA-12	USIE-00	JUSE-00	SP-02	DOEE-00	SNP-01
	CEQ-01	PRS-01	SCT-02	/093 W			

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R 272032Z OCT 86
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2210

UNCLAS BOGOTA 15207

E.O. 12356: NA
TAGS: EPET, PTER, CO
SUBJECT: EXPLOSION ON NEIVA - LA DORADA OIL PIPELINE

REF: FBIS CHIVA CHIV 252241Z OCT 86

1. SUMMARY: EXPLOSION ON NEIVA - LA DORADA OIL
PIPELINE REPORTED FBIS NEVER OCCURRED. DAMAGE CAUSED BY
BUNGLING CRUDE OIL THIEVES. SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY CONFIRMED WITH ENRIQUE AMOROCHO, VICE
PRESIDENT FOR REFINING AND TRANSPORT OF ECOPETROL, THAT
BUNGLING OIL ROBBERS CAUSED THE OCTOBER 25 DAMAGE TO THE
NEIVA - LA DORADA OIL PIPELINE, NEAR THE TOWN OF LERIDA,
IN TOLIMA DEPARTMENT. TERRORIST ACTIVITY HAS BEEN RULED
OUT.

3. THE THIEVES APPARENTLY TAPPED INTO THE CRUDE OIL
PIPELINE IN ORDER TO STEAL CRUDE FROM ECOPETROL. UPON
LEAVING THEY SIMPLY LET CRUDE OIL CONTINUE TO LEAK FROM
THE SECTION OF PIPE THEY DAMAGED RESULTING IN SPILL OF
ABOUT 150 THOUSAND BARRELS. MOST OF THE OIL HAS BEEN
CLEANED UP. LOSSES ARE CONSIDERED BY ECOPETROL TO
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BE MAJOR. THE DAMAGE WILL TAKE SEVERAL DAYS TO REPAIR.
GILLESPIE

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J. OLSON
DATE/CASE ID: 24 OCT 2002 200201334

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